

look at what we are doing in this natural reserve and preserve area.

I am also pleased and want to thank particularly Secretary Babbitt, the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. REGULA, Senator MACK, and others who have assisted us in trying to connect the Ocala National Forest with the Wekiva Estate Park and acquire 18,000 acres along this area. This Congress has done more than anyone in the history that I know of, of the State or the Congress, in preserving that area which will connect the national forests with the State park and also with the scenic designation do a great deal in preserving an incredibly beautiful area for future generations.

So again I am pleased to join the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MCCOLLUM]. I thank the gentleman for his leadership on this and others, and I urge my colleagues to pass this very productive legislation.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MCCOLLUM] for his comments, and also as the chief sponsor of this piece of legislation. I am sure that the good residents of his district as well as the good people of Florida will benefit from this piece of legislation when it is passed.

Again in the spirit of bipartisanship on this committee I would like to thank him, and certainly also the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] for his support, and again I ask my colleagues that we support this piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3155, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

SNOQUALMIE NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 1996

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3497) to expand the boundary of the Snoqualmie National Forest, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3497

Be it enacted by the Senate and House Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Snoqualmie National Forest Boundary Adjustment Act of 1996".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Certain private lands in the State of Washington presently owned by Weyerhaeuser Company and others are located adjacent to the Snoqualmie National Forest and are logical extensions of the forest.

(2) A boundary adjustment will facilitate a land exchange which involves approximately 7,200 acres of National Forest land and 33,000 acres of private land owned by Weyerhaeuser Company, of which 6,278 acres are outside the present Snoqualmie National Forest boundary.

(3) Weyerhaeuser Company and the Forest Service are prepared to exchange these lands, which will benefit both the United States and Weyerhaeuser by consolidating their respective land-ownership holdings and providing reduced costs for each party to implement their land management objectives, providing an opportunity to implement more effective ecosystem based management, providing increased recreation opportunities for the American public, providing enhanced fish and wildlife habitat protection, and supporting the "Mountains-to-the Sound" goal of a continuous greenway between the Cascade Mountains and Puget Sound.

SEC. 3. BOUNDARY MODIFICATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture is hereby directed to modify the boundary of the Snoqualmie National Forest to include and encompass 10,589.47 acres, more or less, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Snoqualmie National Forest Proposed 1996 Boundary Modification" dated July 1, 1996. Such map, together with a legal description of all lands included in the boundary adjustment, shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service in Washington, District of Columbia.

(b) RULE FOR LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND.—For the purposes of section 7 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 460f-9), the boundary of the Snoqualmie National Forest, as modified pursuant to subsection (a), shall be considered to be the boundary of that National Forest as of January 1, 1965.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN] and the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN].

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. HANSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3497, introduced by Ms. DUNN of Washington. This legislation modifies the boundary of the Snoqualmie National Forest to facilitate a land exchange. It is needed because approximately 6,300 acres of land that would be exchanged to the Government is outside the national forest

boundary. H.R. 3497 is a bipartisan bill, introduced by the entire Washington delegation, and it has support from the administration and the public.

The land exchange has been 12 years in the making. It is the result of a collaborative effort between the Sierra Club's Checkerboard Project and the Weyerhaeuser Co. The Forest Service will exchange approximately 7,200 acres of national forest land for 33,000 acres of private lands owned by the Weyerhaeuser Co. The exchange is based on equal values of land and timber.

In addition to the trade, the agreement will result in a substantial donation of land from Weyerhaeuser to the Forest Service, including approximately 900 acres which will be added to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness.

Since 1991, surveys of the land and timber resources have been completed, and the biological, archaeological and wetland resources on the two ownerships have been thoroughly studied. In July, 1996, the Forest Service completed a draft environmental impact statement [EIS] for the land exchange and requested public comment on the proposal. Three public meetings were held to discuss the land exchange and the draft EIS. Once a final EIS and record of decision are completed, H.R. 3497 will provide the authority the Forest Service needs to acquire the lands that lie outside the current forest boundary.

I commend my colleague, Ms. DUNN, for her leadership on this excellent measure. The environment and the people of the Puget Sound region will benefit as a result. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and vote with in favor of H.R. 3497.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I am unaware of any problems with this legislation, H.R. 3497. The bill would alter the boundaries of a national forest in the State of Washington to facilitate a land exchange that appears to be in the public interest. I understand the bill has the support of the various interested parties and I have no obligation to the legislation.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I have no requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3497, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.